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THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Miſchiefs that ariſe from Crown'd Heads being under the Government of the Prieſts. Some Hiſtorical Inſtances. Head and Governor the ſame Thing. The Opinion of Biſhop Jewell *concerning the Power of the Keys. The* Country-man's *Doggrel on the High-flying Clergy.*

From **Saturday**, February 1. to **Wednesday**, February 5. 170⅞.

Country-m. NOW, Maſter, if you pleaſe, let us have one other Stroke at the *Rehearſer*; he now poſitively denies the Queen to be Head of the Church.

Obſ. The High-flying Clergy, and their Brethren, the Jeſuits, can never prevail ſo well on the Liberties of the People, as when they have got a King or Queen that is a zealous Bigot. *i. e.* ſuch a one as they can tack under their Cirſingles; ſuch a one is a *Jure Divino* Prince, Head of the Church, and what not, provided he'll do what the Devil puts into the Heads of the Prieſts to have done; and by this doing, they make a Devil of him at laſt.

The factious Prieſt-hood muſt govern the King or Queen, or the Church is in Danger of falling, and the King in Danger of being damn'd; and for this End they pretend to the Power of the Keys, and of Abſolution, thereby to affrighten thoughtleſs and leſs reſolute Princes. Your Majeſty ſhall be damn'd, if you don't do ſo and ſo; you ſhan't go to Heaven; if you don't murther the Proteſtant Diſſenters; this is the Language of the Prieſts, when they govern Princes.

'Tis not out of Zeal for Religion, that thus they endeavour to aggrandize their Power, but that they may domineer in Temporals: This their Behaviour at the Elections; nay, their very Countenances have ſhown, and they can never uſurp upon the People, before they have topp'd upon the Crown: And Lord have Mercy on that Country, where the Prince and Prieſts are combin'd againſt the *Plobeians!* But after this Manner, has the Deſtruction of Freedom and Liberty been commonly wrought.

When the domineering powerful Prieſt-hood have got the Length of a Prince's Foot, or rather of his Luſt, what mayn't they do? If he'll make them abſolute in the Church over the Souls of Men, they'll make him abſolute over their Bodies in the State; and ſo here are two Tyrannies ſupporting one another; and yet, ſometimes they fall out, and thoſe are halcyon Days for the People.

Knowles, in his *Turkiſh* Hiſtory, tells us, That the *Greecian* Biſhops were wrought upon by the large Promiſes and Flattery of *Andronicus*, to give him a general Abſolution from the perfidious Perjuries and bloody Murders he had committed, which when he had obtain'd, by Degrees they grew out of Eſteem, and ſoon after he turn'd upon. This we have ſeen in our Day, when the High-flying Prieſt-hood had preach'd up Paſſive-Obedience, and Non-Reſiſtance, and told the King, An't pleaſe your Majeſty, you may enſlave all the People, they are your Vaſſals ſubjected to your ſovereign Will and Pleaſure. But he, I mean, King *James*, turn'd firſt upon the Church, gave the Tythe Pig a confounded Pull by the Tail, which occaſion'd a Revolution; which, had it not been done by themſelves, the High-Prieſts would have call'd a Rebellion. This was the only good Thing I ever knew 'em do, and of this they repented; but perhaps they have a Power to abſolve themſelves, as well as other People.

Mr. *Fuller* gives this Character of *Baſilius*, the *Patriarch* of *Conſtantinople*. "He and *Andronicus* were a Patron and Chaplain excellently met, for what one made Law by his Luſt, the other endeavour'd to make Goſpel by his Learning: In ſtating of any Controverſy, *Baſilius* firſt ſtudy'd to find out what *Andronicus* intended or deſir'd to do therein, and then let him alone to draw that Scripture which would not come of it ſelf, to prove the Lawfulneſs of what the other would practiſe. Thus in Favour of him, he pronounc'd the Legality of two moſt inceſtuous Matches; and this *Greecian* Pope gave him a Diſpenſation to free him from all Oaths, *&c.* which he had formerly ſworn to *Manuel* or *Alexius*."

King *Philip* the ſecond of *Spain*, had *a Counſel of Conſcience*, which often ſtretch'd their Conſciences to bring him out of many Difficulties, and free him from the Bands of his Promiſes: But theſe, and all others of the like Stamp, have left but an infamous Memory behind 'em; for Men generally refuſe to pay any Reſpect to their Names, that have been diſregardful of the Name and Honour of their Heavenly Maſter.

The narrow Limits of this Paper, will not allow me to give you much Hiſtory, or I could abundantly ſhow the Miſeries and Calamities that have befallen thoſe People, whoſe Kings have been under the Government of the Jeſuits. Jeſuit, *Roger*, is a common Name to Popiſh or Proteſtant Prieſts, that pretend to the Government of, and an Independency of Power in the Church, with crown'd Heads. We have ſeen the Effect of this Linſey-wolſey Power of Prieſt-hood, and feel too much of it at this Time in *Europe*.

Country-m. But, Maſter, he ſays, that Queen *Elizabeth* diſown'd her ſelf as Head of the Church; that the Word *Head* is left out, and

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the Word *Governor* put in; and for this he quotes Biſhop *Burnet*, and Biſhop *Jewell*.

Obſ. This is falſe Reaſoning, my honeſt *Country-man*; Governor and Head, are convertible Terms; he that is the Governor of a Politick Society, is the Head thereof. A King or Queen entruſted with the executive Power of the Laws, is both Head and Governor.

We have all along own'd, in this Diſcourſe, that our bleſſed Saviour is the ſole Head of his Church, independent and uncontroulable. The civil Magiſtrate does make Laws relating to divine Worſhip, not *in Sacris*, but *circa Sacra*, that is, they don't by a Law, eſtabliſh any new Doctrines of Religion, but for the better Government of the Church, according to Decency and Order, and for the better putting the Laws of God in Execution, by the Power of the ſecular Arm.

Now, as no Law in *England* is made without the Queen, ſo all the Laws in *England* are executed by the Queen; ſhe is veſted with the ſole executive Power, and is ſupream Head and Governor in all Caſes, as well Eccleſiaſtical as Civil; and ſhe muſt be ſo: For to ſet up any Power equal with her, or independent, is unhinging our Conſtitution, and breaking the very Frame of our Government.

I don't ſee what he quotes from Biſhop *Burnett*, can avail him; but becauſe he, in his laſt Paper, gives this Character of Biſhop *Jewell*: That, "he was the greateſt Light of the "Church of *England*, and the moſt learned "Oppoſer of Popery of any that liv'd in that "Age." I will tell him what that Light ſaid concerning the Power of the Keys, in his Treatiſe, call'd, *Apologia Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ*.

In theſe Words. *Cumque Clavis, qua aditum obis aperitur ad Regnum Dei, ſit Verbum Evangelii & Interpretatio Legis & Scripturarum, ubi non ſit Verbum, ibi dicimus non eſſe Clavem ——— Niſi id Agat, ut Hominum flectantur Conſcientiæ & Succumbant verbo Dei, negamus aut aperire aut claudere, aut Omnino habere Claves.*

The Key which opens an Entrance into the Kingdom of God, is the holy Scriptures; where the Word is not, there is no Key. Where the Conſciences of Men don't ſtoop and ſubmit according to the Word, there is no opening or ſhutting. We muſt be judg'd by the Word and our own Conſciences, and the Abſolution of the Prieſt at the great Day, will ſignify nothing, Our Faith, our Works of Righteouſneſs, and the Merits of our Saviour, will only open to us an effectual Door.

Could the tacking Prieſts once perſwade the People, that they have a Power to remit Sins, I don't queſtion but they would carry their Cauſe at the next Elections; and for their Failure the laſt Time, they have laid the whole Natio nunder an Interdict. Poor Gentlemen, what a Pitty 'tis they had not an Opportunity of bullying the Queen in the Houſe of Commons, as they did in their *Memorial*, and at the Elections?

But we may obſerve, by their Books and Behaviour, that they pretend to an Independency in the State, as well as the Church; they won't allow the Queen to chuſe her own Miniſters and Officers; they muſt have *Fleet Shepherd* Key to the Door of Preferment, as well as St. *Paul's* to the Gate of Heaven.

Country-m. Aye, and then, Maſter, you and I ſhall have fine Places at Court. Maſter, I hate Proteſtant Jeſuits, and Papiſh Jeſuits, and all Jeſuits, and when I was thinking of 'em t'other Day, my Poetical Maggot bit at a ſtrange Rate, and down dropt this Parcel of Doggrel join'd to two Lines of *Hudibras*.

When Pulpit Drum Eccleſiaſtick,
Is beat with Fiſt, inſtead of a Stick,
And Leſley, *with his High-Church Race,*
Affronts the Queen unto her Face,
And lewdly, without Fear or Dread,
Diſowns her for the Churches Head;
When they of Rights make ſuch a bawling,
As Cats oft do at Catterwawling;
When they feloniouſly would ſeize,
Into their Hands, their Churches Keys;
And would impoſe Dominion on us,
'Till they have ruin'd and undone us;
Would make the Crown and State a Cripple,
And eke deſign t'enſlave the People.
When their Deſigns we have in View,
'Tis Time for all Men to be true;
Oppoſe their Malice and their Hate,
Stand by the Queen, the Church, and State;
Betake us to our conſtant Work,
You uſe your Pen, and Hodge *his Fork.*

Obſ. Thou'rt a clever Fellow, *Roger*, at every Thing. We'll ha' done with thy Rhyms, for 'tis too late to begin a new Cauſe to Night.

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*** Whereas *Charles Bridge*, Tin-plate-worker, late of *Shoreditch*, deceaſed, who, whilſt living, made and ſold Dark-Lanthorns, but got the Invention clandeſtinely by a Servant of *Francis Doubleday's*, who not only betray'd his Maſter's Secrets, but gave him an Account of his Cuſtomers, by which his ſaid Maſter has been much prejudic'd. This is therefore to certify, That the ſaid *Francis Doubleday*, the old Tin-plate-worker, lives ſtill in *Horſeſhoe-Alley* in *Moorfields*, *London*, who maketh and ſelleth very good Dark-Lanthorns, and other Tin Ware, as formerly, at reaſonable Rates. He has a Son brought up in the ſame Trade, and is the moſt expert at the ſame of any in *England*.

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